The People's Korea

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Over 580 Mil. Signatures Collected in 110 States to Support Korea Reunion

The international signature campaign supporting the Korean people's just cause of national reunification is going on in 110 countries and the number of those who signed their names has reached 580 million in response to the appeal of the International Liaison Committee for the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea, KCNA reported.

The signature campaign is participated in by political parties and public organisations, heads of state presidents of parliaments, mayors, councillors, public figures, soldiers and people of broad segments of various countries. Regional and international organisations are also actively participating in this campaign.

In Sao Tome and Principe a group was formed for the signature campaign supporting the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea and the campaign is being waged throughout the country under the guidance of the group. On Oct. 3 Manuel Pinto Da Costa, President of Sao Tome and Principe, signed the text supporting the Korean people's cause of national reunification.

The text was also signed by the ministers of the government, all the Members of the Political Bureau of the Liberation Movement of Sao Tome and Principe, leading figures of public organisations, soldiers and people of all strata of this country.

In the Congo the text was signed by the President of the People's National Assembly at the instruction of the President of the Congo and in Rwanda it was signed recently by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, entrusted by the President, and the General Secretary of the National Revolutionary Movement for Development respectively on behalf of the country and the movement.

On Sep. 29 Santiago Carrillo, General Secretary of the Spanish Communist Party, participated in the signature campaign going on in his country and signed his name in the "text for the reunification of Korea."

In Syria the signature campaign supporting the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea is going on in various parts of the country including the capital at the instruction of the Syrian Arab Socialist Baath Party. It was already participated in by the Lawyers Association of the Syrian Arab Republic and other public organisations, teachers and personages of various circles of Syria.

The signature campaign was participated in recently by the Administrative Secretary of the Togolese People's Rally on behalf of the rally in Togo, the Chairman of the People's National Congress of Guyana and Ministers of the government in Guyana, Ministers of the government and members of Parliament and representatives of 26 political parties and public organisations including the Lebanese Socialist Progressive Party, the Lebanese Communist Party and the Lebanese Regional Committee of the Arab Socialist Baath Party in Lebanon, the President of the Assembly and the Mayor of Santarem in Portugal and the Secretary of the Communist Party of Greece (interior) in Greece. They expressed support to the struggle of the Korean people for the reunification of the country.

The signature campaign is being waged in all parts of Ghana, too.

Representatives of 43 trade union organisations from Italy, Senegal, Niger, the Congo, Argentina, Costa Rica, Mexico, Angola, Guinea-Bissau, Zambia, Fiji, Nigeria, Gambia, the United States, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Cyprus, India, Ghana, Colombia, Portugal, France, Lebanon, Libya, Surinam, Guinea, Afghanistan, Spain, Mali, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Madagascar, Chile, Sierra Leone, Peru and Mauritius which had attended the 8th Congress of the Trade Unions International of Workers of the Building, Wood and Building-Materials Industries held in Poland recently participated in the signature campaign supporting the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea on behalf of their organisations.

The text signed by them said:

—All U.S. troops must withdraw from south Korea and Korea be reunified independently and peacefully.

—Korea must be reunified peacefully on an independent and democratic principle without alien interference.

—Korea must not be kept divided into two forever but be reunified into one.

Representatives of the Trade Unions International of Agricultural, Forestry and Plantation Workers, the Trade Unions International of Public and Allied Employees, the Trade Unions International of Workers of the Metal Industry, the Trade Unions International of Workers in Commerce, the Japan Pig Iron and Bus Workers Union, the General Federation of Commercial Workers of Latin America, the General Confederation of Workers of Peru, the National Agricultural Confederation of Peru, the Confederation of Bank Worker of Peru, the Italian Communist Youth League, the Union of Communist Youth Movement of France, the Hongkong Students Federation, the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions, The General Federation of Arab Commercial Workers, the Arab Lawyers Union, the General Federation of Pan-African Commercial Workers, the World Federation of Trade Unions, the Swedish Peace Committee, the Panamanian Institute for the Formation and Use of the Human Resources, the International Union of Students, the World Federation of Democratic Youth, the Nepalese Journalists Association and the National Union of Commercial Workers of Nigeria also signed recently the following text on behalf of their organisations:

Fully supporting the appeal of the International Liaison Committee for the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea, we strongly hold that the reunification of Korea should be realised at the earliest date in accordance with the three principles and five-point policy of national reunification put forward by the great leader, President Kim Il Sung and the United States must give up at once all its manoeuvres to perpetuate the division and provoke another war and completely withdraw its troops from south Korea in accordance with the resolution of the United Nations and its "commitment."

Recently the Finland-Korea Association held a meeting and discussed measures for briskly conducting the signature campaign supporting the reunification of Korea throughout the country and issued an appeal.

On Oct. 18 the Bureau of the World Federation of Democratic Youth made public an appeal in connection with the international signature campaign supporting the reunification of Korea.

S. Korea-U.S. Exercises Blackmailing S. Koreans

The U.S. Defence Department announced that the U.S. joint chiefs of staff would have a "command post exercise" codenamed "8 Bells—79" in south Korea from Dec. 3 to 7.

The military exercise is to test the capacity of command and control of the U.S. joint chiefs of staff and a specially selected U.S. army command under "combat conditions."

It is said that the military exercise will involve the south Korean clients, too.

The commanding exercise in south Korea planned by the U.S. joint chiefs of staff is chiefly aimed at directly testing on the spot the combat command system of the U.S. troops and the south Korean army and at carrying out a "short-term operation plan" by throwing large U.S. forces into the Korean Peninsula in "case of emergency" and increasing the ability of their command.

By stepping up their war preparations in south Korea, the U.S. administration is trying to keep Korea divided with "strength", maintain south Kore as its colony and military base and realise its aggressive designs on the whole of Korea. For the present, the Washington administration is trying to threaten the south Korean students and people who rose up in a massive resistance under the banner of anti-fascism and democracy and tear them away from the road of struggle and to give a shot in the arm to the clients in an effort to bolster up the colonial ruling system from a serious crisis.

A "joint combined air defence and attack exercise" of the U.S. troops occupying south Korea and the south Korean army was already held for three days from Nov. 13.

Even latest type aircraft and a Hawk missile unit were reportedly mobilized in this exercise to be participated in by a large U.S. air force, marines and ground force units and the south Korean army.

The "south Korea-U.S. combined forces command" stated that the aim of the military exercise is to strengthen the "preparedness" of the U.S. troops and south Korean army for coping with "an unexpected event that may occur."

The military exercise is an exercise of a total war for invading the northern half of the Republic from the ground, sky and sea and an exercise of the so-called "short-term war" —an intensive surprise offensive by "hard strike."

The U.S. is spurring on new war preparations in south Korea with greater zeal. It is rapidly reinforcing its armed forces, bringing new military equipment and more troops into south Korea. New tactical flying corps were additionally deployed and the air force increased by more than 20 percent.

The Carter administration has shipped and deployed a large quantity of nuclear weapons in south Korea and are making preparations for a nuclear war. The south Korean authorities are being egged onto a war, receiving vast quantities of weapons.

Military exercises are being staged frequently to carry the war plan into practice.

The military exercise "Team Spirit '79", the largest ever held since the armistice, and a joint military exercise dubbed Raidex 79 and so on are only a few instances of war rackets kicked up in south Korea this year. Even nuclear bomb dropping exercise is being conducted by "B-52" strategic bombers.

Lately the U.S. troops occupying south Korea have been alerted, many vessels of the Seventh Fleet massed at south Korean ports and seas and high-speed, high-altitude reconnaissance planes are intruding into the sky above the DPRK side in succession to conduct espionage acts.

In kicking up a row with the amassing of armed forces in and around south Korea and repeated war exercises, the United States also seeks to keep hold on south Korea as its colony and military base and step up its policy of aggression and division by taking advantage of the current complicated situation.

As the massive anti-"government" demonstrations and riots that broke out in succession in Pusan, Masan and other parts of south Korea indicate, the south Korean people of all strata determinedly oppose and reject the "yusin system" and aspire after a new politics and a new system. This desire of the people has become more intense with the killing of dictator Pak Jung Hi. The demand for the repeal of the "yusin system" and the democratisation of socio-political life is voiced loudly also in the south Korean political and public circles.

This has plunged the present rulers of south Korea into confusion and uneasiness, shaking the foundation of their rule.

This is what the U.S. ruling circles are now afraid of: They are trying to save their colonial rule from the danger at any cost in south Korea.

The U.S., by cowing the south Korean people with "strength," are trying to bar their advance and, at the same time, deliver the south Korean authorities from the crisis and pursue the policy of division and war as ever.

The U.S. authorities' noisy talk about "fulfilment of commitments" and "security" is nothing but a veil for concealing such intention of theirs.

The clamorous military exercise of the United States diametrically runs counter to the demand of the Korean people and the desire of the world people for the relaxation of tension on the Korean Peninsula and the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea.

Such intervention policy of the U.S. will only render the south Korean situation more complex and increase tension on the Korean Peninsula.

Overseas Press Comments on Pak's Assassination

News that Pak Jung Hi, the dirty stooge of U.S. imperialism and dictator, was shot dead has evoked widespread press repercussions in various countries of the world, KCNA reported.

On Oct. 30, the Soviet News Agency TASS in a commentator's article titled "The End of Dictator. Who Is Next?" said:

At first Pak's killing was presented as a certain accident whereas now in the U.S. press there dominates the version that the Seoul dictator proved the victim of a conspiracy which was prepared in advance and which was aimed at clearing the way for the advent to power of a new, "more flexible regime."

There is a grain of the truth in it. Though Pak Jung Hi, as the United States President Carter stated, was "a reliable friend and staunch ally of the USA," lately when the wave of anti-"government" actions sharply mounted in south Korea, the unprecedented measures taken by the "regime" to suppress "parliamentary" opposition led to the intensification of contradictions even in the very ruling top line-up of Seoul. This could not but worry the USA which looks at south Korea, first of all, in the light of its own military strategic interests, regarding it as an important military place d'armes in the Far East. Therefore it is not ruled out that the killing of the Seoul dictator could be a preventive action with the aim of "modernising" the Seoul political structure so as to still more reliably protect imperialist interests of the USA.

The end of dictator Pak Jung Hi, on the whole, is natural for U.S. puppets. From the U.S. side there were lots of examples when it changed its placemen when they, upon having accomplished their dark deeds, were already a political deadwood for Washington.

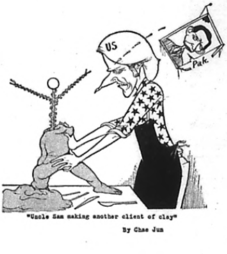
The GDR paper "Neue Zeitung" Oct. 30 noted that Pak Jung Hi who had brandished a club frenziedly as the struggle for democracy mounted higher in south Korea increased the danger of the United States losing its last opportunity to keep hold on the complex of a good market and a military base. Therefore, it said, the United States was ready to victimize its faithful servant if only it could keep the complex as ever.

Pointing to the background of the incident, the Chinese "People's Daily" Oct. 30 said: Based on various facts, not a few foreign reports admitted that the incident has an international background and reflected a "court coup d'etat" resulting from a serious political crisis.

The Hongkong paper "Wen Wei Po" Oct. 29, reporting about the killing of Pak Jung Hi, said: It is nobody's secret that there are close relations between the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency and the south Korean "Central Intelligence Agency." It can hardly be believable that Kim Jae Gyu shot dead Pak Jung Hi so easily without a conspiracy in advance.

The Czechoslovak paper "Rude Pravo" Oct. 29 said:

Thanks to the United States, south Korea keeps a comparatively large army among the countries of the world. And the United States maintains its troops, nearly 40,000 equipped with most destructive weapons.



"Uncle Sam making another client of clay"

By Chae Jun

But, when the people's movement against the dictator gained momentum, Pak Jung Hi became rather a burden for the United States.

On Oct. 28, Prensa Latina of Cuba said:

As new facts were made known, it is becoming all the more certain that the startling killing of Pak Jung Hi was plotted in advance by south Korean "government" and military officials with the consent of Washington.

Pak's popularity had fallen for many years of his rule. This led administrative and military officials who had studied in the United States to take some action.

In view of this incident and the tempo of the U.S. reaction to it, it is not difficult to gather that Washington was aware of a plot against Pak in advance.

The Iranian paper "Teheran Times" Oct. 28 reported about the killing of Pak Jung Hi under the title "There Is a Secret in the Killing of Pak" and another Iranian paper "Teheran Journal" Oct. 28 also reported about it under the caption "Pak Was Assassinated at U.S. Dictates" and carried a cartoon showing the U.S. involvement in the incident.

The Finnish paper "Kansan Uutiset" recently printed a cartoon titled "The U.S. CIA Instigates the South Korean 'CIA' to Commit the Incident."

"The New York Times", introducing views of news commentators in Seoul, said that Pak Jung Hi fell a victim to the plot of murder. The paper noted that this was because his tough line in the home and foreign policies earned Washington's increasing condemnation and, therefore, caused uneasiness in the south Korean military and intelligence agency and landed them in a predicament.

An AP report from Hongkong Oct. 27 said:

"In Hongkong a newspaper said the United States could be responsible for Pak's death. The Chinese-language New Evening Post editorially said: reports have been circulating in Seoul that the United States might have something to do with the incident.

"Washington had been dissatisfied with Pak Jung Hi's attitude toward his opposition party. Pak Jung Hi's high-handed way to expel the leader of the main opposition party from the national assembly had resulted in riots and demonstrations in Pusan. This increased U.S. dissatisfaction."

According to foreign press reports, Washington felt uneasy about ever greater indignation of the people at the south Korean puppet regime. The indignation of the people grew to the extent of not only sweeping away the "regime" itself but also dealing a blow to the interests of the United States in south Korea under the U.S. army's occupation. The dictatorial "regime" resorted to force of arms to repress the discontent.

No one believes that Pak Jung Hi was accidentally shot, reported AFP. In this connection many observers are identical in their opinion that in the prevailing situation Washington adopted a decision to change its puppet.

The Danish paper "Land Og Folk" Oct. 30 in a commentary titled "U.S. CIA Plots to Have Pak Jung Hi Killed" said:

Now the political crisis and economic confusion has become extremely serious in south Korea.

The anti-"government" riot of students throughout south Korea has, in fact, shaken the "*yusin* system" and the fascist rule to the very foundation, dealt a telling blow at the puppets and showed that the fascist rule can no longer be maintained.

The military fascist rule has come to the limit.

These facts seized the puppet rulers as well as their master with uneasiness and fear and aggravated their inner contradictions.

It was against such background that traitor Pak Jung Hi was shot dead by his "confidant." This is a drama stagemanaged by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency as a forestalling step to prevent the shaking of the "*yusin*" fascist rule of its very foundation in face of the riotous actions of the people.

And here the American "Time" magazine unexpectedly comes to aid. In an article on "How the USA Must Treat the Dictatorship," it wrote that this year was an unsuccessful one for right-wing dictatorships and the USA, which frequently supported them. Revolutions first swept away the Shah of Iran, and then President of Nicaragua General Somoza.

All this, the magazine admitted, has made the U.S. administration start a belated reappraisal of the attitude of the United States to the dictatorships. Do not be in hurry to draw the conclusion that from now on Washington has renounced its support for the regimes supported by bayonets!

The attitude to the dictators according to the principle "he may be a scoundrel, but he is our scoundrel" (which is ascribed to F.D. Roosevelt with reference to Somoza's father) remains in force. Simply the Washington Departments were told that the White House will no longer tolerate a weakening and fall of friendly governments take the USA by surprise. The task is, the well informed magazine explained, to be able to tell viable authoritarian regimes from the doomed ones.

The magazine named among the doomed dictators also Pak Jung Hi, and wrote prophetically that if Pak died or was deposed he would in all probability be succeeded by a new general.

The issue of the magazine with the article appeared on Sep. 24. And on Oct. 26 Pak Jung Hi was killed. There is no denying that "the time" must have second sight, or was well informed.

In an article headlined "Did U.S. Government Kill 'ROK' President?" The Lebanese paper "Al Safir" said on Oct. 29:

"In 1964 the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency murdered the dictator of Haiti and in 1979 it manipulated the assassination of Somoza of Nicaragua and Romero of Salvador. This time Kim Jae Gyu appears to have been no more than a tool of the United States in killing Pak Jung Hi."

The Hongkong newspaper "New Evening Post" contended that the United States was behind the incident.

It said the United States customarily framed a plot to remove its lackeys, if they lost completely their prestige.

It cited for examples the removal of the dictator of the Dominican Republic Trujillo and one-time head of the Saigon "regime" Ngo Diny Diem by U.S. intelligence organs.

The Hongkong paper "Ta Kung Pao" reported on Oct. 28:

"The shots in Seoul arouse many doubts; the death of Pak Jung Hi reminds us of dead Ngo Dinh Diem and the United States, giving rise to the suspicion that the United States was behind it."

The Peruvian paper "La Calle" on Oct. 29 said:

"The United States killed Pak Jung Hi. Who could stage a 'coup d'etat' in south Korea without the direct participation or instructions of the United States? The United States removed Pak Jung Hi when he was unable to serve its interests any more."

In a commentary titled "Death of Pak Jung Hi " the French paper "Daily News" Oct. 28 wrote:

"The U.S. bosses concluded that Pak Jung Hi could no longer defend and promote their interests, as he, a lackey of outside forces, had fallen lowest in popularity. Pak Jung Hi had to die."

The Indonesian paper "Merdeka" on Oct. 27 carried an editorial titled "Tragic, but Logic End", which said: "1979 seems to be a year of punishment of dictators. Among them Pak Jung Hi died a most tragic death."

It added:

"This death imposed on Pak Jung Hi is a logic result of the vicious rule he had long enforced as the ruler of south Korea.

"The script whereby Pak Jung Hi was murdered and removed is a typical method of getting rid of such puppets at a specific time and a specific place. The fall of the Pak Jung Hi 'regime' shows that despotic and anti-democratic power is destined to be toppled and is short-lived."

In an editorial titled "Dictatorship and Its End" Japanese paper "Akahata" Oct.28 wrote:"A strange death of a man in power can be seen only in a dictatorial state and it revealed once again within and without the ugly sight of the dictatorial system in south Korea."

In a commentary headlined "Political Gang in Seoul" GDR paper "Neues Deutschland" Oct.29 noted that "south Korean dictator Pak Jung Hi was killed by his own clique."

It further said:

"All is not useful that is faithful to the master. Pak Jung Hi cannot see any more the 'visit' of inspector Brown.

The world is used to know about the involvement of the U.S. CIA in such incident after the lapse of a certain time. It can be said definitely at present that the political plot in Seoul was brewed in an American way and the United States lies behind it."

RPR Hits Seoul for Keeping "Yusin" System

The spokesman of the Revolutionary Party for Reunification issued a statement on Nov. 11 denouncing the south Korean authorities for scheming to maintain the "yusin" fascist system, according to radio "Voice of the Revolutionary Party for Reunification", monitoring here.

On Nov. 10 the "acting president" of south Korea made public a socalled "special statement" announcing that a "presidential election" would be held according to the "yusin constitution" under the present "martial law," the statement said, and went on:

This means, in the final analysis, that they intend to deprive the people of the right to elect and to be elected and conduct a "presidential election" at "the national conference for unification" consisting of servants of Pak Jung Hi and let this "president" carry out a socalled revision of the "constitution" in their favour through all intrigues in the remaining term of five years so as to keep the tyrannic system. In other words, they mean to erase the word "yusin" outwardly only to consolidate, in actuality, the machinery of the "yusin" dictatorship and continue along the road of fascism and division.

The statement sternly denounced these machination of the puppets, branding them as a treacherous act for building another bulwark of dictatorship.

The statement emphasized:

The upper crust of the ruling quarters at present should know that if they continue to depend on outside forces and continue along the road of anti-democracy and anti-reunification against the will of the people, they will meet the same miserable end as their predecessor.

If they do not want to follow the footsteps of Pak Jung Hi, they should decisively reject the interference of the outside forces in internal affairs, immediately repeal the "yusin constitution" and all other fascist evil laws, abolish the "yusin system", dissolve the "Central Intelligence Agency", release all the political prisoners, democratize society and come out to achieve the peaceful reunification of the country through alliance with communism and great national unity, before their crimes grow.

The statement demanded the present rulers of the United States should not interfere in the internal affairs of south Korea, but should not withdraw the U.S. imperialist occupation troops and nuclear weapons from south Korea.

Intensified Repression in S. Korea, ICJ Says

Political repression has intensified rather than lessened in south Korea, the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) said on Nov. 6.

Independence of judges has been seriously undermined, and the judiciary is incapable of giving prisoners charged with political offences a fair trial, the Geneva-based commission said. Defense lawyers engaged in political cases have been harassed and persecuted, it added.

The findings appeared in a report by Adrian Dewind, former president of the New York City Bar Association, and John Woodhouse of the ICJ secretariat, on an inquiry they conducted in south Korea last May.

The commission, an independent body of lawyers campaigning for respect of legal rights throughout the world, said the report was prepared before the assassination of Pak Jung Hi last month. It added: "Neither that event nor anything that has happened since appear to affect the relevance or validity of the conclusions."

The report said: "both legal and extra-legal means are employed by government officials to curtail drastically participation in the political processes.

"Leading south Korean citizens have been illegally kept under house arrest, detained and in some cases tortured, and prisoners have been maltreated."

The report said a small body of courageous civil rights attorneys had tried to be vigilant in protecting human rights. Contrary to statements by south Korean Justice Minister Kim Chi Yul and the president of the bar association, Kwak Myong Duk, most, if not all of these lawyers had been harassed as a consequence, the report said.

The commission said its representatives investigated specific cases of nine defense lawyers who had been criminally charged or threatened with charges or other disciplinary action. The report found punishment of these lawyers was unjust, and indicated an established pattern of harassment.

The Korean Bar Association had done nothing to reassert its independence or to support the few lawyers who had come under attack for doing so, the report said.

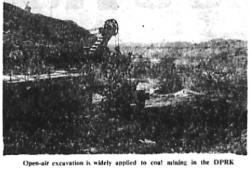
DPRK Immune from Energy Crisis

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is a Juche-led socialist industrial country reliably sustained by a self-reliant national economy. The principle of self-reliance is thoroughly embodied in every field of the economy as well as in politics and culture. This is also true with energy. Energy self-sufficiency has been achieved through full reliance upon the country's bountiful coal.

In his New Year address (1979), President Kim Il Sung, the architect of the Juche-oriented independent national economy, called for greater efforts to increase coal production:

"Coal is the major resource of fuel and power in our country; it is a priceless wherewithal of Juche industry. Coal is indispensable for generating electricity, running factories and turning out various manufactured goods. 'Every effort for increased production of coal!' is an important slogan put up by our party today."

The powerful Juche economy makes the DPRK completely immune from an energy crisis now befalling the capitalist world.



Open-air excavation is widely applied to coal mining in the DPRK so as to boost coal production. The country's estimated coal reserves are 8 billion tons.

Energy Shortcges Shaking West

An unprecedented energy crisis is shaking the capitalist world at its very foundation. Its impact is especially serious in the so-called major industrial democracies, whose vital energy source is oil imported from the Third World's oil producers. Their fifth summit held in the Japanese capital of Tokyo last June, took issue with the energy crisis as the foremost item on its agenda. For fear of the gathering oil crisis, the summitteers from the U.S., France, Britain, West Germany, Japan, Italy and Canada, desperately worked out conservation programs to curb oil consumption through 1985.

OPEC vs West

Timed to coincide with the Tokyo summit, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) raised their oil prices 18% a barrel on an average in the wake of the 9% hike last April. Another boost of as much as 15% is expected at the next OPEC regular meeting scheduled for December 17 in Caracas, the capital of Venezuela. Prior to this, Libya, Algeria, Iran and Nigeria already set their new higher oil prices, respectively.

Alarmed at a new challenge from the Third World's oil cartel, the Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA), a Western oil consumers' coordinating body, last month called on its member nations to adopt tougher oil import and conservation policies. The IEA was formed in 1974, as a rival to the OPEC, following the 1973 oil crisis. Then, the oil cartel forced oil embargo upon Western nations sympathetic with the Israeli Zionists, which triggered the first "oil crisis." Early this year, a new round of "oil crisis" was kicked off by the Iranian revolution, which toppled the Shah's pro-American monarchy.

The West had exhausted its oil resources, and was imposing cheaper prices upon the Third World's oil producers. Today, it has become impossible for them to continue doing so, as an extensive drive for a new international economic order to replace the Western-controlled old order, is gaining in momentum as never before among the Third World nations. This is well exemplified by a series of oil price hikes by the OPEC, which was formed in September, 1960. In January, 1973 the price of oil per barrel was only about 2.10 dollars. Oil prices will reach 86 dollars a barrel in 1995, according to tentative calculations by the U.S. Energy Department.

In parallel with boosting oil prices, the tendency of restricting oil supplies to the West is becoming more apparent among the Third World's oil producers in a long-range bid to make their resources available for the development of their independent national economies. Thus, the oil crisis threatens to cut off the lifeline of the capitalist world.

Panic in U.S.

Among others, the ensuing oil crisis entails the most serious ever energy shortages in the U.S., the world's biggest oil importer and guzzler. After the Tokyo summit, U.S. President Carter, who had hurriedly flown back home, announced a "new emergency energy plan," which called for drastically cutting oil imports to half by 1990, proposing to develop alternative energy sources and conserve energy. Accordingly, a gasoline rationing system was enforced on a nation-wide scale.

In its July 16 issue which featured the energy crisis, the U.S. news magazine "Newsweek" warned:

"The problem is as grave as any American has faced since World War II—a national-security issue of such scope and complexity that it is transforming the economy, threatening to destroy political consensus and undermining traditional life-styles. Jeremiahs speak darkly of an inflation-plagued, no-growth economy for a generation to come or, alternatively, of the necessity for grim personal sacrifice by American consumers. Fuel shortages pit East against West, city against suburb, farmers against truckers in a regional divisiveness not seen since the issue of race split the nation North and South. Yet, for all the ferment and warnings of the past half-dozen years, America has done little to solve an energy crisis that threatens to engulf it."

This summer's severe energy shortages in the U.S. plunged the nation into a panic—gasoline filling-station lines stretched out, demanding scarce oil, and truckers went on strike and a riot erupted against strict gasoline rationing.

The probability of another oil price hike at the scheduled OPEC Caracas meet and the increasingly strained U.S.-Iranian relations—last week Teheran embargoed oil exports to the U.S.—irritate Uncle Sam, presaging heating-oil shortages this winter resembling a summer panic.

Anxiety is growing among other Western oil consumers including Japan, as well.

Fear of Galloping Inflation

As of July, it was estimated that the June OPEC boost would add 2 points to the U.S. inflation rate, cut economic growth by 2 points and add 800,000 people to the jobless rolls by the end of 1980. Then, the nine-nation European Economic Community (EEC) calculated that the boost could cut the EEC's growth rate by as much as 2.8 percentage points and increase inflation by 2 percentage points. Until then, Japan had enjoyed surpluses in its international balance of payments for a long time, thanks to the yen appreciation. But, the new oil price hike has reversed its balance of payment position. Consequently, Japan's international balance of payments has begun to record deficits, as the yen continues to be depreciated.

Impact upon S. Korea

The oil crisis is critically hitting south Korea, an appendage to the U.S. and the Japanese economies.

The share of oil in south Korea's total energy demand exceeds 60%. Last year, south Korea imported 166 million barrels of oil, and, this year, it is scheduled to import 197 million barrels. Originally, south Korea has earmarked 2.5 billion dollars for oil imports. But, the amount has been forced to be revised far upwards by a series of oil price boosts.

According to a report by the "Commerce and Industry Ministry," south Korea's trade deficit quadrupled in the first half of this year to the tune of 2,290 million dollars from 770 million dollars a year ago. The first six-month figure already surpassed the deficit of 2.2 billion dollars for full 1978. It is predicted that south Korea's trade deficit will hit a record 4 billion dollars by the end of this year, due to rising oil import bills. The Seoul authorities initially envisaged a 2.5 billion dollars trade deficit for this year.

There is an ominous sign that the annual inflation rate will eventually hit the 30% or more mark this year against the official target of 10-12%. Last year, it was 14.4%. As a result, Seoul is compelled to scale down the economic growth rate to 5% from the original 9%.

From an economic point of view, the bankruptcy of Seoul's "high-growth policy" caused by the ever-widening trade gap and runaway inflation recently resulted in increasing social unrest, which culminated in the riots in Pusan and Masan, and eventually in the assassination of the hated dictator Pak Jung Hi.

Carter's Presidency At Stake

The oil crisis coupled with inflation is threatening to shorten Carter's presidency itself, as it cut short his former protege's.

Meeting Democratic Congressional leaders in early July concerning the spreading energy crisis, the Chief Executive said, "The future of the Democratic Party is tied to energy. It could be the issue that puts the Democrats out of power for a very long time."

Recent public opinion polls show that Carter's popularity has been on the constant decline. His Gallup rating sank to a critically low 28% as of last July from the highest mark of 55% in September last. In addition, various polls unanimously indicate that Carter will be far behind Senator Edward Kennedy in the Democrats' presidential nominations set for next year. The U.S. daily "Boston Globe's" opinion poll released last September showed that the challenger would win 58% of votes against 28% for the president.

Today, a spectre of energy crisis is haunting the capitalist world, casting dark clouds over the capitalist economy. "We are living today in an era of great fragility in the supply of energy," the American CIA director, Stansfield Turner confessed last month.

DPRK's Self-Reliance in Energy

The escalating fear of oil shortages is hastily running the West into a desperate search for alternative energy sources.

The DPRK has known no energy crisis, as it is fully meeting the growing demand for energy through intensive utilization of coal bountiful in the country—estimated coal reserves in the country are 8 billion tons.

Bountiful Coal Leading Energy Source

The current seven-year economic plan (1978-1984) envisages annual coal production of 70-80 million tons in the final year. The preceding six-year plan (1971-1976) attained the goal of 50 million tons.

During the first seven-year plan which finished in 1970 with the completion of socialist industrialization, the existing coal mines were largely reconstructed and expanded, and 26 new large-scale coal mines were developed. The following six-year plan witnessed the development of such new huge collieries as Sochang, Kumya and Toksong. In addition, many new pits were commissioned at the coal mines in the northeast and western regions. These concentrated efforts have resulted in boosting coal production in the DPRK. For the purpose of a further increase in coal output, modern and high-speed equipment is being introduced into coal mines on a full scale, and comprehensive mechanization of pit work accelerated.

Greater efforts are being made to develop coal industry under the second seven-year plan. Accordingly, this year has seen a sharp growth in coal output. In the first half, coal output was up 11% from last year's like period.

Recent KCNA despatches from Pyongyang give a first-hand account of the DPRK's brisk coal mining:

In the last quarter of this year, the daily coal output has so far jumped 30% above that in the previous quarter. With precedence given to earth-scraping and tunnelling, the amount of earth-scraping augmented 60% and that of tunnelling 50% as against the same period of last year.

The Anju district coal mining complex in South Pyongan Province, a representative coal base of the country, is making vigorous efforts to double coal output this year as against last year and lift its production capacity to a 15-million-ton mark in the near future. Thereby, the daily coal output has already been raised there by more than 1,000 tons a day. Besides, at the Obong, Aoji, Sosong, Hapo and Ilsin coal mines of the northern coal basin, more than 10,000 tons of coal have been excavated every month.

Other coal bases have also made innovations in their daily coal production. The Tokchon district coal mining complex in South Pyongan Province is fulfiling its daily quota at 140 to 150%, and the Kowon district coal mining complex in South Hamgyong Province at 140%, too. The Sunchon district coal mines in South Pyongan Province increased their daily coal output 40% above the like period of last year.

Stable Power Generation

Rich coal, together with inexhaustible water resources, sufficiently feed the expanding power industry consisting mainly of hydraulic and thermal power generation.

Special attention has been paid to the rapid development of thermal power generation based on coal. The five-year plan (1957-1960) and the following seven-year plan saw all-out efforts to construct thermal power plants throughout the country. In particular, work on the construction of the Pyongyang Thermal Power Plant with a generation capacity of 500,000 kwh started in 1961 and was completed in 1967. During the subsequent six-year plan period, a great number of thermal power plants emerged in the DPRK, including the Pukchang Plant in South Pyongan Province. Thermal power plants are serving to supply not only electricity but also heat. With thermal power plants as a base, central heating systems are widely introduced into urban areas.

As a result, thermal power generation has paralleled hydraulic power generation in a balanced way—51.7%: 48.3%. In 1959, the proportion of thermal power generation remained only 3.6%. Today, seasonal fluctuations in electricity supply has been completely eliminated in the country.

Hydraulic power generation has also been developed in step with thermal power generation, to suit the geological feature of Korea. Mountains occupy about 80% of its entire territory. As many as 168 rivers (longer than 4 km) run through the mountainous peninsula into its surrounding seas. Of them, the longest is the River Amnok-gang bordering on China and flowing into the West Sea. The second is the River Tuman-gang flowing along the border into the East Sea. Amnok-gang has a capacity of 4.21 million kwh generation, and Tuman-gang 1 million kwh. It is estimated that more than 200 new hydraulic power plants can be built on these rivers, plus the River Taedong-gang on which the capital of Pyongyang is situated. In total, 8 million kwh of electricity can be generated by them. The nation's biggest hydraulic power plant is the Supung Plant located on the Amnok-gang River.

Tidal Power Generation Project

In addition, a tidal power plant construction project will be under way from 1981 in the DPRK. Full-scale preparations for the project will start from next year. According to a preliminary study, there is a possibility of 11 tidal power plants with a total generation capacity of 4.6 million kwh being constructed along the West Coast where the maximum tidal difference reaches 10 meters, the second highest in the world.

What is more, special attention is directed to the manufacture of heavy and precise machinery required for the power industry, on the basis of Korean technology. In an effort to further increase power generation during the period of the current seven-year plan, heavy-duty power generating equipment will be newly manufactured—220-ton boilers, 50,000 kva turbines and hydraulic and thermal power generators. A manufacture of 100,000 kva turbines and generators is envisaged as the next goal.

For the purpose of more effective use of coal for energy, intensive studies are under way on the gasification of coal through indigenous technology. Besides, coal is extensively utilized in the country as important raw materials of its chemical industry such as chemical fertilizers and synthetic fibres. Well-known is vynalon, a brainchild of Korean science.

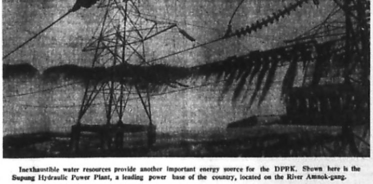
The DPRK's power generation hit 16,500 million kwh in 1970, 28,000 kwh in 1975, and will reach 56,000-60,000 kwh by 1984, the final year of the second seven-year plan. The goal is higher than the present level of Japan.

No Economic Fluctuation

The self-reliant, surely established power industry ensures the steady growth of the independent national economy, free from any fluctuations in the world economy. The annual growth rate of the economy averaged 19.1% from 1957 to 1970, and 16.3% from 1971 to 1976. Especially, power industry helped to promote the irrigation, electrification, mechanization and chemicalization of agriculture—electrification was completed in 1960 and the irrigation project is nearing completion. Thanks to these measures, grain production has constantly risen in the DPRK—7 million tons in 1974, 8 million tons in 1976, 8.5 million tons in 1977.

Under the advanced socialist system supported by this powerful, stable economy, the nation's income has been steadily raised, and prices lowered. In 1970, for example, the income of the nation was increased by 31.5% on an average. Soon, it was raised again by 10 to 24%. Meanwhile, in 1974, the prices of over 21,800 daily necesssities were lowered by an average of 30-50%.

Consequently, the real income of workers grew 1.7 times and that of farmers 1.8 times per household during the period of the six-year plan (1971-1976). In 1975, the per-capita national income surpassed 1,000 dollars. As a matter of fact, there is no inflation.



Inexhaustible water resources provide another important energy source for the DPRK. Shown here is the Supung Hydraulic Power Plant, a leading power base of the country, located on the River Amnok-gang.

Yearly Targets Hit at Many Factories

PYONGYANG, November 12 (KCNA)—Industrial establishments in various domains of the national economy of Korea are fulfilling this year's plans ahead of schedule.

The working people in Kaesong overfulfilled their industrial production plan for this year set much higher than last year's.

The Kaesong Textile Mill and the Kaesong Knitwear Mill carried out their yearly assignments at 115-166 per cent through an intensified technical innovation.

During the period of the fulfilment of the plans, the local industrial factories in the city have introduced hundreds of technical innovation proposals to expand the variety of consumer goods and improve their quality.

One hundred and ninety-two industrial establishments in Kangwon Province and 159 industrial establishments in North Hwanghae Province beat their yearly targets nearly three months ahead of schedule.

In Ryanggang Province, 213 factories and enterprises have announced the fulfilment of their plans for this year.

Many industrial establishments in other provinces are fulfilling their yearly plans ahead of time.

Mining to Excavate 16-Million-t. Iron Ore Annually

Today the Komdok Mine produces 100 times as much non-ferrous metal ores as in the pre-liberation days.

This shows an aspect of the leaping progress of mining industry in the DPRK.

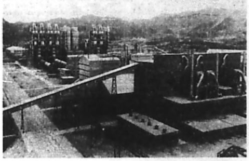
The country has laid solid ore production bases which can reliably guarantee the building of an independent national economy and fully meet the demands of the national economy for various minerals.

The multilaterally developed mining industry of the country has a perfect production structure, whose branches such as ferrous metal, non-ferrous metal, light metal, rare metal and nonmetal mining industries have developed proportionally.

The Musan Mine with its deposits of thousands of millions of tons is being expanded into a gigantic mine with a production scale of 10 million tons of magnetite. Many other promising large mines have been constructed. Non-ferrous metal ore bases have been expanded and big mines developed in new districts. The Ryongyang Mine, a world's leading magnesite producer, has also been largely expanded.

Quite a few limestone mines have cropped up in many parts of the country. Our country is blessed with inexhaustible deposits of limestone.

During the second seven-year plan period (1978-1984), the DPRK will excavate 16 million tons of iron ore annually and produce enough ores for beating the target of one million tons of non-ferrous metal.



The Sunchon Cement Factory with a production capacity of 3 million tons in South Pyongan Province, is a major base of the DPRK's cement industry.

Cement: 12-13 Million t.

These days the cement factories in different parts of the DPRK are carrying out their daily plans at over 110 per cent.

The Sunchon Cement Factory, the nation's biggest factory of its kind, has boosted production and increased its daily supply of cement to various parts of the country over 1.5 times in the past three months.

The February 8 and Sunghori cement factories are augmenting the daily output of clinker and cement 1.2-1.4 times by ensuring the full capacity operation of all the equipment.

The country has inexhaustible deposits of high quality limestone, clay-slate stone and rich coal.

The country raised its cement production capacity to over 8 million tons during the last six-year plan and increased cement output 32 per cent last year as against the previous year. In the first half of this year, cement production grew again by 30 per cent compared with the same period last year.

In 1984, the country's annual cement output will reach 12-13 million tons.

For its high quality, cement produced in the DPRK is popular in foreign countries.

Moranbong Wrist Watch Factory

The Moranbong Wrist Watch Factory was newly built in Pyongsong City, South Pyongan Province, the DPRK, to supply more watches to the people.

The factory is mass-producing high-class "Moranbong" watches. Its products are very popular with the people.

The demand of the people for wrist watches and other high-quality light industrial goods is rising rapidly as their living standard rises.

The new large factory is fully automated and equipped with precision machines. Workers and technicians at the factory are striving to produce more watches and improve their quality. In the first half of this year, technicians at the factory designed various different watch models and introduced some of them into production.

Workers of material, case and jewel shops raised the proportion of work done by the pressing and stamp forging methods and are producing more watch parts than needed.

In the second quarter of this year, the assembling workers produced five times as many watches as in the last quarter of the previous year.

A great number of watches are produced at the Moranbong Wrist Watch Factory every day to satisfy domestic demand. In the near future, watches from the factory will be shipped to many foreign markets.

New Reservoir Constructed

The construction of the Ryongho Reservoir has been completed, according to KCNA.

With the appearance of one more artificial lake on the west coast, the ring-shape irrigation system existing in the area has been further consolidated and the reclaimed tideland-paddies in Chungsan and Onchon counties have come to get more sufficient water.

A ceremony for the completion of the Ryongho Reservoir was held on November 8, which was followed by a test discharge of water. There are above 1,500 reservoirs in the DPRK.

The country is pushing ahead with a grand nature-remaking project envisaged to reclaim 100,000 ha of land. A mass movement is going on to obtain more farmland, major reserves for increased production of grain.

Much efforts are being exerted in North Hamgyong Province to reclaim 2,000 hectares of land before spring ploughing next year.

Two to three hectares of land is overturned every day in Yonsa county of the province.

Last year the province brought over 1,200 hectares of land newly under cultivation.

South Hwanghae Province is also successfully carrying on this movement by mobilizing machines to obtain 2,000 hectares of farmland within this year.

Onchon county of the province found over 300 hectares of reclaimable land and is now concentrating efforts on it.

Other provinces are also energetically striving to get more farmland, rearranging ridges between paddy fields and between non-paddy fields and removing stone walls, readjusting land along the railway lines and rivers and terracing mountain slopes.

Seoul Intends to Continue Pak's Policy

A hard choice before the south Korean "caretaker government" is between the removal of the "yusin constitution" and all its related institutions and the continuation of the same fascist rule by replacing one puppet leader by another.

The recent moves of the south Korean ruling quarters, which are directly controlled by the United States, show that Seoul plans to follow the latter course despite the strong opposition of anti-Establishment forces.

South Korean acting "president" Choe Gyu Ha on Nov. 10 made public the so-called "special statement" in which he said that a "presidential" election would be held by Jan. 25, 1980 under the present "constitution" to replace the assassinated dictator.

In other words, the south Korean authorities intend to elect the new chief executive indirectly by an electoral college called the "National Conference for Unification(NCU)" without hearing the opinions of the opposition parties and democratic personalities including former "president" Yun Bo Son and "presidential" candidate Kim Dae Jung.

In his "special statement" the acting "president" mentioned nothing about the abolition of the sharply-criticized "yusin constitution" which served only to insure the strongman's continued rule over south Korea.

South Korea's ruling Democratic Republican Party(DRP) decided to name its permanent adviser Kim Jong Pil as its new chairman to succeed despot Pak Jung Hi. Kim Jong Pil is one of the key guys who staged the May 16 coup together with Pak and has been directly concerned with the consolidation of the "yusin" political system.

As former "president" Yun Bo Son pointed out, nobody in south Korea could expect a fair and free election through the NCU, and if such a person as Kim Jong Pil who has played up to his boss becomes the next "president", there will be a danger of great anxiety and confusion being caused in south Korean society.

Tightened Control

The south Korean "caretaker government" schemes to continue Pak's fascist, undemocratic and anti-people policy without Pak, ignoring the voices of the people who strongly call for the restoration of democracy: the "martial law commander" praised the slain dictator.

On Nov. 5, south Korea's "martial law authorities" set "standards for press censorship" by putting all news reporting under strict control, and banned all political comments or views on the assassination of Pak Jung Hi except for "official" statements.

South Korea's mass media neither call for the removal of the "yusin constitution" the people keenly desire nor carry any views of opposition parties or democrats demanding a new democratic system and direct election of a new "president".

The "martial law command" on Nov. 7 banned distribution of Japanese daily newspapers including English-language papers and business papers.

The "martial law commander," army gen. Chung Seung Hwa, talking about the non-existent "threat from the north," on Nov. 8 released a statement, saying he would not tolerate any illegal protest, riots or assembly, and stressed the need to tighten control.

"... the 'martial law command', under any circumstances, will not tolerate any illegal protest or riots, or any indiscreet political agitation that could cause social unrest," Chung said.

There is and was no such thing as legal protests or demonstrations in south Korea, and what he termed "political agitation" is political statements by democratic figures which speak for the south Korean grass-roots and students.

The "martial law authorities," after the "state funeral" of Pak, took 3,500 people to custody on charges of "lawless elements." And "martial law" which was declared right after the death of Pak is still in effect in south Korea.

On Nov. 15, the "martial law authorities" detained Li Byong Ju, Chairman of the Tong-a Ilbo Struggle Committee for the Protection of Freedom of the Press, its member Li Bu Yong and Choson Ilbo Struggle Committee Chairman Chong Tae Gi.

Three of them on Nov. 13 made public a joint statement at the house of former "president" Yun Bo Son expressing opposition to the "special statement" of the acting "president" and calling for an end to the "yusin constitution", emergency decrees and other evil laws.

There is no change in policies of the south Korean authorities even after Pak's death.

All indications are that the south Korean authorities did not draw any lessons from the death of the dictator and that they don't realize the graveness of the October riots in Pusan, Masan and other parts of south Korea.

What's "NCU"?

In the Nov. 10 "special statement," acting "president" Choe Gyu Ha made it clear that the next "president" would be chosen through the "National Conference for Unification" as stipulated in the "yusin constitution". No "presidential" election through the "NCU" can reflect the opinions of people in all sections.

The "NCU" is one of the products of the "yusin constitution." It made its first appearance on Dec. 15, 1972 in order to insure the permanent office of Pak Jung Hi. The delegates to the "NCU" are empowered to exercise functions—election of the "president."

This electoral college is an apparatus aimed at legalizing Pak's one-man rule.

In the 1971 "presidential" election, Kim Dae Jung won 5,400,000 votes or 46 percent of the total number of votes though the DRP and ruling quarters suppressed his election campaigns by every possible means and resorted to all their financial power and "government" authority, irregularities and swindles. It was Kim Dae Jung who actually won the election. So, Pak was afraid of losing his post as "president."

Delegates to the "NCU" are not qualified to voice their opinions about the selection of the "president," as all of them were Pak's backers.

Though it is said that delegates to the "NCU" are elected through a nation-wide popular vote, applications for its candidacy are restricted in many ways. Most of them are comprador capitalists, leaders of the reserve army forces, chiefs of local anti-communist leagues and others who have economic or political ties with the south Korean ruling circles.

The delegates can never be called representatives of the majority of the people.

U.S. Moves

The Pentagon ordered the 39,000 U.S. troops in south Korea on combat readiness alert right after the official announcement that the dictator had been slain.

Carter said that the United States would react strongly in accordance with its treaty obligations to south Korea to any external attempt to exploit the situation.

On the eve of his trip to Seoul, U.S. Secretary of State Vance said, "We welcome the preservation of stability in this difficult period and hope that future development will take place in an 'orderly manner'".

Needless to say, what he called development in an "orderly manner" means development through the "yusin" system.

The United States heightened tensions on the Korean Peninsula by dispatching the aircraft carrier Kittyhawk and other warships of the 7th Fleet task force to Pusan, Chinhae and Inchon.

These moves of the United States clearly show that Uncle Sam still has the intention of putting his nose into Korean affairs and that it was involved in the assassination of Pak.

In addition, the current moves of the United States are indicative of its intention of threatening people and students in a show of force and of encouraging the south Korean authorities to continue their suppressive policies to deal with chaos they face.

It is not accidental that the Carter administration dispatched major warships of the 7th Fleet task force to Pusan where the first flames of the October riots had been enkindled.

The October uprising of south Korean students and people in Pusan, Masan and other parts of south Korea dealt a heavy blow at the U.S. colonial rule over south Korea and the "yusin" political system at its very foundation.

The announcement by the south Korean-U.S. Combined Forces that U.S. air force, marine and army units will join their south Korean counterparts for a joint exercise implies that the United States is completing new war preparations on the Korean Peninsula.

EDITORIAL

Bent on Keeping "Yusin"

After the Pak's assassination, the south Korean people now have to choose between two conflicting alternatives; One is to restore democracy and achieve the reunification of the country and another to continue the "*yusin* system" and the division.

People the world over, closely following developments in south Korea after the Pak-shooting incident, expect the south Korean people will follow a road to democracy and reunification, while abolishing the "*yusin* system."

South Korean acting "president" Choe Gyu Ha on Nov. 10 said in a broadcast speech that "a presidential election" would be held by Jan. 25, 1980 under the current "constitution." He also suggested the newly elected "president" should not fill out the remaining years of Pak's term, due to expire in 1984, but instead would seek to amend the heavily-criticized "constitution" Pak enacted and call a second "presidential election."

Publicizing much the "threat of southward invasion," Choe Gyu Ha stressed a "graduated reform" and did not mention the reunification of the country. This reflects clearly the vicious intention of the Seoul authorities to perpetuate the division of Korea under the "*yusin*" dictatorial system.

This has invited strong public criticisms as the people are pressing for the repeal of the "*yusin* constitution" and the restoration of democracy.

Kim Yong Sam, court-dismissed president of the opposition New Democratic Party, issued a statement on Nov. 10, harshly criticizing Choe Gyu Ha's special statement. Kim demanded that the "constitution" be first abolished within three months of the Oct. 26 assassination of Pak to pave the way for electing a new "president" by a direct popular vote under the new democratic constitution. The NDP president said he could not find any self-criticism on the part of the "government" which he said unilaterally ordered the people to take for granted what has been a major target of public criticism.

The abolition of the "*yusin* constitution" must come first to assure the revival of democracy of the south Korean society. The people were subjected to all kinds of trials and sufferings under the 18-year Pak's "*yusin*" dictatorship. Much blood has been shed for the removal of Pak Jung Hi, the repeal of the "*yusin* constitution," the restoration of democracy and the reunification of the country.

A total rejection of the November 10 statement of Choe came when a group of leading south Korean dissidents issued a special statement on Nov. 12. The group is known as "the National Union for Democracy and National Unification" which is co-chaired by former "president" Yun Bo Son, former opposition "presidential candidate" Kim Dae Jung and Christian leader Ham Sok Hon.

The group demanded the resignation of acting "president". This demand received the support of five democratic bodies.

South Korea is in a more serious social disorder when the present authorities are following the anti-popular policy under the "*yusin* constitution", putting down democracy.

The Seoul authorities insist on holding "presidential election" under the "*yusin* constitution" in compliance with the Asian policy of the Carter administration.

The cold war stance and human rights violations of Pak Jung Hi was out of accord with the human rights diplomacy of the Carter administration which intends to keep hold on south Korea as its stable military base as it is dealing with the fast-changing situation in Asia. Therefore, it is safe to believe that the American intelligence community must have something to do with the Pak-slaying incident.

Vance, the Secretary of the U.S. State Department, betrayed the aggressive intention of the Washington government on Nov. 3 when he attended the national funeral of Pak Jung Hi. He said that Washington would maintain as ever the close tieups with Seoul.

Now is the time for the north and the south to cooperate and unite to repulse the divisive manoeuvres to stop the democratization of the society. The 34-year division and confrontation between north and south have brought misfortune to the Korean people, but proved beneficial to the foreign aggressors.

Rodong Sinmun (organ of the CC of the WPK) on Nov. 9 carried an editorial headlined "Let Us Find the Way Out for the Nation Through Cooperation, Solidarity and Unity."

The Rodong Sinmun editorial stressed: Great national unity is a basic factor for national reunification. Even though there really exist differences in ideology, ideal and system between the north and the south, they cannot be an obstacle to unity with one Korean nation. The reunification of the country will become possible when the north and the south adhere to the national ideal, letting bygones be bygones. To this end, the north and the south should try to dispel each other's distrust and misunderstanding and alleviating the military confrontation through many-sided co-operation in various fields of economy, culture, education and public health. The north-south dialogue should be resumed at an earliest possible date, attended by all sections of the south Korean people.

The independent and peaceful reunification of Korea is an urgent problem which can brook no delay. Now is a good chance for promoting Korea's reunification. The peaceful settlement of the Korean question will vastly contribute to the relaxation of tensions in Asia.

This settlement do mean neither the fixed division of the north and the south nor the north-south peaceful coexistence.

The north-south coexistence runs counter to the desires of the Korean people for the reunification of their country, but is an instrument to perpetuate the division.

The U.S. troops in south Korea are a basic obstacle to the peaceful settlement of the Korean question.

If the U.S. is interested in stabilizing the situation in Asia, it should stop interfering in the internal affairs of Korea and discontinue the "two Koreas" plot.

In this crucial period, the Korean problem should be left to the Korean people themselves who are making all-out efforts to realize the independent and peaceful reunification of the country through concerted strength.

Dissidents Demand Abolition of "Yusin Constitution", Free "Presidential" Election

South Korean dissident groups Nov. 13 issued a joint statement, sharply condemning acting "president" Choe Gyu Ha's Nov. 10 announcement on post-Pak political schedules.

They criticized the announcement, saying that it attempted to prolong the one-man dictatorial rule.

The statement was issued by 5 dissident groups. They were the council of dismissed professors, the council of literary men for freedom, the Tong-a Ilbo Struggle Committee for the Protection of Freedom of the Press, the Choson Ilbo Committee consisting of dismissed reporters of Choson Ilbo and the Council of Democratic Youth organized by expelled students.

Saying that the assassination of Pak Jung Hi was virtually an outcome of the people's struggles including the Pusan and Masan resistance struggles, in which the anger of the people erupted, the statement said:

The special announcement by acting "president" Choe Gyu Ha is an expression of his will to extend the old "*yusin*" system and continue a policy traitorous to the nation who earnestly aspire after democracy.

While supporting the Nov. 12 statement issued by ex-"president" Yun Bo Son, the statement urged immediate removal of "emergency measure No. 9" and martial law; freedom of the press and speech; unconditional release of all political prisoners and restoration of their rights; and reinstatement of persecuted professors, pressmen, students, and workers.

On the same day, a New Democratic Party spokesman issued a statement strongly demanding that the puppet authorities release ex-"presidential" candidate Kim Dae Jung from house arrest and abolish the "emergency decrees."

The statement noted: "It is essential for a new political order to create an atmosphere of national reconciliation."

It demanded immediate complete release of Kim Dae Jung, standing adviser to the NDP, from house arrest and guarantee of the freedom of his activities; withdrawal of "emergency measure No. 9"; an end to the closure of universities; abolition of the controls on press and speech; and immediate removal of martial law.

Earlier on Nov. 12 ex-"president" Yun Bo Son called for immediate resignation of acting "president" Choe Gyu Ha and denounced the U.S. for supporting the Choe "government."

The statement was issued in the name of the National Union for Democracy and National Unification at a press conference.

The statement called for:

—A new constitution within three months, to be followed by a popular "presidential" election as soon as possible under the new constitution, not under the present "*yusin* constitution," which was formulated in 1972 by Pak to ensure his one-man dictatorship.

—Immediate resignation of Choe Gyu Ha; (The "prime minister" became acting "president" under Pak's repressive "*yusin*" system) and formation of a caretaker "government" made up of democratic forces including Opposition parties, which have fought against the dictatorship.

—Unconditional and immediate release of all political prisoners, and reinstatement of all clergymen, writers, students, newsmen, lawyers and others dismissed by Pak's dictatorial regime.

—Freedom of the press and free political activity. (Strict censorship was imposed under Pak's authoritarian rule and political opposition was illegal. Press censorship and a ban on all political activities continue under martial law even after Pak's assassination on Oct. 26)

Ex-"president" Yun Bo Son said that Choe Gyu Ha's political schedule is an act traitorous to the nation committed in the name of "stabilization."

Yun Bo Son said further the U.S. was making another political blunder in supporting Choe's plan. Noting that the U.S. State Department issued a positive statement supporting it within minutes of Choe's Nov. 10 announcement, he said:

Judging from the fact it came so quickly, I think they had an exchange of views in advance.

"If the U.S. supports Choe's formula this time, it will be making another political blunder."

On Choe's plan, the Opposition New Democratic Party and the Democratic Party for Unification had expressed their rejection of it and demanded the abolition of the "*yusin* constitution" and a free direct "presidential" election.

South Korea Ill-Equipped for New Oil Crisis

South Korea is today ill-equipped to deal with the raging "economic war" between Iran, a major oil-producer, and the United States, a major oil-consumer. Another serious economic dislocation is likely. Seoul's oil inventories are almost enough to meet its 17-day needs. South Korea is dependent on oil supplies from three American companies as it has no direct deals with OPEC countries.

No Independent Oil Source

In 1978, 61.1% of south Korea's energy needs was filled by oil imports. Once south Korea mainly used coal as an energy source. In 1965, oil accounted for 27% of its energy consumption, while in 1969, oil replaced coal as its main energy source. Even heating and coking coal is imported. This year south Korea imported 3 million tons of coal to supply 12% of its needs.

This shift from coal to oil came under American pressure as American oil concerns wanted to monopolize oil supplies to south Korea. American pressure became apparent when Pak Jung Hi seized power through a coup and announced the so-called export-first policy.

As of June, 1979, south Korea has oil inventories for 17 days, compared with 100 days' storage of oil in the United States, 81 days' oil stockpile in Japan, 89 days' oil reserves in the United Kingdom, 105 days for West Germany, 93 days for Italy, 79 days for Sweden and 128 days for Switzerland. Virtually, south Korea has little oil stockpile.

Those West European countries and Japan have direct deals with OPEC countries, although they get oil from American firms. Yet, south Korea has not such DD's. Three American oil corporations—Gulf, Caltex, and Union oil corporations—control oil supplies to south Korea through three refineries set up as joint ventures with south Korean companies. Korean Petroleum Corporation gets 100% of its crude oil from Gulf Oil Corporation, Caltex provides 80% of the Honam Refinery's needs and Union oil supplies 80% of the crude oil the Kyongin Energy processes. Three refineries are under 50:50 joint ownership, but practically are under American control. The Americans obligate the south Koreans to use American tankers and market oil through American media.

The trouble is that Iran has halted oil shipments to American concerns for delivery anywhere, including the United States, while Saudi Arabia has made plain that it has no plan to increase its oil production to make up for the American loss of Iran oil. Kuwait is also critical of American policy toward Iran. Where and how can the south Koreans get vitally-needed oil? Are the Americans considerate enough to divert their oil reserves for shipments to south Korea? The answer is negative. The spot market whose prices are twice or thrice the OPEC ceiling prices may be one source but must increase oil bills of south Korea. DD's may emerge as another option. Kuwait, south Korean newspapers on Nov. 18 reported, asked for gratis takeover of shares in the Korean Petroleum Corporation in return for the supply of oil.

Major International Borrower

How to pay growing oil bills is a key question to be asked. A World Bank report, published on June 20, 1979, claims that south Korea is emerging as a major borrower in a next few years. The bank estimates that Seoul will require at least $13.5 billion in the three years 1979-81 to sustain its economy. The bank report was presented to the meeting of the International Economic Consultative Organization for Korea held in Paris on June 20-21, 1979.

The bank lists the issues facing south Korea: long-term payments deficits, chronic unemployment, dualistic social and economic structure, pronounced urban-rural imbalance and extensive, absolute poverty. It also puts on the list: pollution, health, security, social benefits, and price stability.

It should be recalled that the original projections of the much-touted fourth five-year plan 1977-81 were that in the last three years of the period south Korea would become a net exporter of capital. Such miscalculation is not new. Revisions have always been made of all the past economic plans, with foreign debts growing in a snowballing manner.

According to the November 2 issue of a south Korean daily, Chung-ang Ilbo, as of the end of last year, Seoul's foreign debts stood at $13.5 billion, and the figure is expected to rise to $18 billion by the end of 1979, excluding those to be repaid this year ($2,890 million in principal and interest). The newspaper predicts that the rising interest rates on the world financial market will further increase the foreign debts of south Korea.

Compounding the situation is a chronic trade deficit. South Korea had a customs-cleared trade deficit of $4.2 billion in the first 10 months of 1979, higher than any annual trade deficit figure in the past. A very conservative projection for 1981 by the south Korean finance ministry is $4.7 billion deficit in trade. Reporting the record trade deficit, The Asian Wall Street Journal on November 20 quoted ministry officials as saying that "there should be no problem for Korea to fill the gaps with overseas borrowing." He did not answer how the loans could be repaid in view of the ever-growing foreign debts of south Korea.

Severe Economic Malformation

Despite its "remarkable" and "miraculous" growth, the south Korean economy is fragile in constitution because of its malformation marked by heavy dependence on foreign capital and technology as well as foreign raw materials and fuels. The World Bank describes south Korea as an outstanding example of economic growth with a trickle down of benefits to all sectors of the community.

Vast sales or exports do not necessarily reflect that much profits or growth of the south Korean economy. South Korea's financial daily, The Seoul Kyongje Sinmun, frontpaged on November 17 a story on the deteriorating financial situation of leading corporations which recorded increased sales. The paper's analysis is based on a report released by the Industrial Bank on November 16. "Corporations of this nation," the daily noted, "have attained a surprisingly great growth in scale over the past 10 years but mainly by means of the introduction of foreign capital and loans. The outcome is a sharp decline in their profitability due to their aggravated financial situation." The bank survey covered 27,000 odd corporations and investigated their growth from 1966 to 77, revealing their average 6.5-fold expansion in scale. The bank report stressed that their expansion was not matched by an otherwise greater profit.

In 1963, the ratio of owned capital in the composition of capital averaged 52.0%, but in 1978, the ratio dropped to 21.4%. In 1965, the average profit was 8% of the total proceeds but decreased to 4% in 1978. The 1965 ratio of net returns to capital was 8% but the 1978 figure was 5%.

The rate of south Korean technology is still comparable to that of Japan in '50s. The 1977 rate was 4.9%, while Japan recorded 4.1% in that decade. The contribution of technological advance to the economic growth stood at 15.5% in south Korea, compared to 35.3% in Japan in '50s, 38.6% in West Germany in '50s, and 65.0% in the United States in '50s. The November 16 Industrial Bank report concluded that most of south Korean technology was copied from abroad, with local technology in a sorry disarray, as more than 70% of the introduced technological knowhow was concentrated in three fields of chemicals, electronics, and electric apparatus, making it impossible for indigenous technology to develop in a coordinated way.

One of the characteristic features of the south Korean economy is export-orientation, therefore, the domestic demand is not a primary consideration. Cheap labor has sustained the labor-intensive export-oriented economy. Raw materials are not locally produced but imported. Fuels are also mainly imported. Such constitution makes the south Korean economy highly exposed to any external factor, in particular an oil crisis.

Runaway Inflationary Spiral

An adverse impact on the south Korean economic performance of the current conflict between Teheran and Washington can be fairly predicted by the precedent this year. On July 10 last, the oil prices were raised by 59%, the second highest increase in south Korean history. The highest hike of 82.0% came on February 1, 1974. At the same time, electricity rates were increased by 35% on July 12, and on July 11, the prices of the oil-related industrial products went up by a large margin ranging from 4.1% to 48.04%. This drastic price increase caused a chain reaction, discouraging production.

"More oil price hikes could pose additional strains," The Asian Wall Street Journal noted on October 13 last. According to the American daily, south Korean prices were currently running more than 20% ahead of last year. Imports increased as twice as fast as exports. Industry had to postpone expansion projects because of a lack of funds for investment. The New York Times on August 23 quoted as American officials in Seoul as saying that consumer prices in south Korea were going up at a rate of 25%. AFP reported on October 30: "South Korea could be faced with an inflation rate of nearly 30% this year in the wake of the latest increase in oil prices.... the sharp rise in the oil import bill has dealt a blow to economic activity." The AFP story continued: "South Korea's... industrial development in recent years has largely been pushed on massive borrowing on the international market, which has pushed the total indebtedness to about $10,000 million." The Japanese daily Yomiuri Shimbun wrote on October 23 last, "The inflation and the rising labor cost has dealt a heavy blow to south Korea's economy which pursues the export-oriented policy without any significant natural resources."

As of the end of August, 74 enterprises closed down, 1,623 suspended businesses, and 8,198 curtailed operations. Three auto-makers—Hyondae, Kia and Sehan—reduced their targets for this year by 30% and attained 37% of their annual export targets as of the end of August last. The big three were producing at the average 45% of their capacity during August last, the lowest rate in their history. Machine makers, a key industry, are currently operating at 60% of their capacity on the average. The figure in the Changwon Industrial Complex, a leader of the export-oriented economy, was less than 30% as of the end of September last.

Last Leverage Lost

The hardest-hit secters are the ordinary people. An ample hint to this is the plight of female workers of the Y.H. Industrial Company. The skillful female workers received 50,000 won for their monthly wage, while the minimum monthly cost of living for an urban family of five was 200,000 won. According to an August 2 report by the economic planning board the average monthly income of miners, high-wage earners, was 106,500 won. The south Korean Development Institute in its 1976 survey reported that urban per-capita income per month was 9,432 won and rural figure was 7,890 won, while those with income less than that level totalled 5,198,000 or 14.8% of the entire population. The same survey observed: "Over this period (1970-76), inequality of income between the three groups—agricultural sector, non-agricultural employees and employers— accounted for a small and declining part of the inequality, with the major part being accounted for by inequality within each group. Increasingly inequality among the employer's group accounted for the largest proportion of increase in inequality over 1965-76.

The economic woes magnified by the oil crisis have deprived the south Korean junta of its final leverage on the population. The denial of freedom and democracy under the notorious "yusin" regime has been defended and justified on two grounds: one is the alleged "threat from the north" and the other the economic growth. As Kim Yong Sam, leader of the largest Opposition party New Democratic Party put it,"The people are unsatisfied with the lack of political freedom and now, on top of that, economic hardship is also hitting them." The visible signs of the economic disaster is one of fundamental causes which provoked the Pusan-Masan affair, bringing south Korea near the April 1960 uprising.

Visit to Homeland

Ist Reunion in 33 Years

Li Hwa Guk from Osaka in Japan (56 years old), a member of the 5th short term home visiting group met his younger brother in the fatherland after 33 years separation. Follows a story of an emotional reunion of the two brothers.

It was when the 5th short-term home visiting group arrived on the afternoon of Oct. 25 at Songdowon Rest House in Wonsan where his relatives had been waiting for them.

In this impressive atmosphere in which parents and relatives who had been separated for a long time hugged each other, sheding tears, Li Hwa Guk, (56 years old) rushed to those who had come there to greet them, crying "Aren't you Hwa Byong? Oh, dear Hwa Byong!"

Tears endlessly streaked from their eyes.

"Is this dream or reality that I am hugging you whom I thought already dead?"

"Dear brother, this is no dream!"

They pressed their cheeks and patted each other on their backs. "Why didn't you send me even a letter when you were alive? Why didn't you make me know you were alive? Mother, our mother died six years ago, calling our names after suffering all sorts of hardships in south Korea.

Li Hwa Byong, hearing the sad news of his mother's death sobbed and told his wife, sons and daughters to greet their uncle with a tearful voice.

Li Hwa Guk said, "Dear nephews, I am your uncle. Come this way. How glad I am to meet you thanks to the care attended by the fatherly leader."

Indeed, the meeting of Li brothers would be the most impressive and joyful meeting that will move thousands of men to tears.

Although other persons entered the rooms after several hours, the Li brothers remained there hugging each other.

Why did they separate?

The Lis came to Japan, an alien land in the dark period when our country was under the colonial rule of the Japanese imperialists. Two brothers spent their childhood days, moving from one public work site to another, together with their parents.

Then when the fatherland was liberated, they prepared to return to the country.

It was in the beginning of 1946.

Their father said to Li Hwa Guk who had just married, "Hwa Guk, as you are married, I will go to the country, prepare for a living in advance and send you a letter.

Then come to the country with your wife."

At first he insisted on his going to the country with his father but finally he decided to stay in Japan. His parents left for Cheju Island with his then 16-year old younger brother, Li Hwa Byong.

He did not expect that he was seeing off his father at Osaka Port, never to see him again.

Two months later Li Hwa Guk was greatly shocked to receive a letter from his father, telling him not to return to the country because the country was under the U.S. rule and people there suffered from a miserable life.

Li Hwa Guk, 56, and his younger brother in an emotion-charged reunion after a 33-year separation. (at Songdowon, Wonsan City)

Pro-Japanese imperialist rascals suppressed the Lis on the ground that they had belonged to the Choryun (Korean Residents League) for one year before they left Japan.

Li Hwa Byong and his parents, therefore, had to live in a pigsty, needless to say they did not have an acre of farmland.

In 1948, when the people's uprising arose, the U.S. and Syngman Rhee clique murdered south Korean people and burned their houses at random.

There was no exception. The Lis also lost their pigsty shed and were finally rendered homelands.

Finally, his parents fell ill, suffering from high fever.

To make the matter worse, Li Hwa Byong, their son on whom they so heavily relied was taken to the puppet army.

How much his parents grieved!

Li Hwa Byong was sent near the Military Demarcation Line after he had been forced to do military drills for 12 hours every day for 11 months in Pusan.

Then on June 25, 1950 he was involved in the aggressive war which the U.S. imperialists started.

Li Hwa Byong who had heard the news that in the northern half of Korea, all farmland had been given farmers, masters of the land, and all politics were enforced for the good of the working people, was thinking of defecting to the Republic even during the arduous Fatherland Liberation War.

On Jan. 1, 1951, he finally deserted the puppet army and joined the Korean People's Army.

Everything was new and pleased him. The soldiers of the Korean People's Army kindly gave him army uniform and put the badge on his cap, though officers of the puppet army had been kicking him severely, shouting "rascal!"

He fought valiantly in every fight with a burning desire to gvie a real joy of life to his parents, villagers and south Korean people, suffering from all humiliation and maltreatment and to be loyal to the great leader.

On the day when Korean people won great victory over the U.S. imperialists shouted at the top of his voice, "Long live our supreme commander General Kim Il Sung!" he pledged to devote himself to post-war construction and the country's reunification with a membership card of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Great leader Marshal Kim Il Sung gave him not only a political life more precious than a physical life and the honour of being a member of the Korean Workers' Party of Korea but also a Combatant's Order of Honor Second Class, Outstanding Military Service Medal and a Victory Medal.

Moreover, the fatherly leader gave 20,000 won (200 won today) to him who had no money at that time, and took care of him so that he might make a living and attend a mining special high school, following a special high technical institute.

In addition, the fatherly leader extended all love and care so that he might attend the communist university and named him chief of a workshop at Songhung Mine and awarded him National Flag Third Class and Meritorious Service Medal in recognition of his success in his work.

"Dear brother, even if I lived separated from my parents and you, I have been leading a very happy life for 27 years thanks to the warm care and trust of the leader," said Li Hwa Byong.

Moved by the warm care and high trust of Marshal Kim Il Sung, Li Hwa Guk shed warm tears.

This was at the end of November of 1977.

Li Hwa Guk who was engaged in the work of Chongryun received an unexpected telephone call from a Chongryun worker in Tochigi Prefecture. The Chongryun worker said that he had met chief of a mine workshop named Li Hwa Byong when he visited Pyongsan county in North Hwanghae Province.

He asked Li Hwa Guk if the chief of the mine workshop was his real brother.

Li Hwa Guk answered, "My brother? My brother died 27 years ago.'

Then the Chongryun worker told Li Hwa Guk about his name and his wife's name and his home province. "Is it really? Is my brother still alive?"

After receiving the telephone call, Li Hwa Guk could not do his work well till he met the Chongryun worker.

Is my brother still alive? If so, what is he doing now? He may be searching me.

But if he is not my brother....

He wanted to believe that the person who was seeking for me was his brother. So he could not sleep well for several days.

There was no doubt that the person in the photo the Chongryun worker showed him was his brother.

He felt as if he were floating in the air. He sent a telegram to the mine where his brother was working. Thus the two brothers could meet each other after the separation for 33 years.

Under the warm care of great leader Marshal Kim Il Sung, one of the two brothers who suppressed and humiliated in the past are now a reliable member of the Workers' Party of Korea and the other a Chongryun worker, and they met eath other at Songdowon Rest House, fulfilling their long-cherished desire to meet each other.

"I will be loyal to the last to the fatherly leader who gave me this honour, happiness and great emotion. Let's put an end to our country's tragic division by doing our work successfully, in my case in Japan, in your case in the fatherland."

The words of his resolve to be loyal to the great leader that burst forth from the heart of Li Hwa Guk was shared by all family members of the two brothers.

World Bulletin

- ● Eight thousand five hundred postgraduate students have been enrolled recently by institutions of higher learning and research institutes throughout China and have now started their studies.
- ● The 5 millionth automobile "Lada" was recently produced at the Bolzhsk Automobile Plant in Togliatti, the Soviet Union.
- ● An institute of ocean navigation history was set up recently in Quanzhou, Fujian Province, China.
- ● The workers of the "Katowicze" Metallurgical Combine of Poland have produced 9 million tons of steel since its commissioning. They produced 40,000 tons of pig iron and 22,500 tons of steel outside the plan during the first nine months of this year.
- ● A new ferry harbour built in Vela Luka, Yugoslavis, is soon to become operative. The port can take two ferries at the same time.
- ● Artificial earth satellite "Intercosmos-20" was launched in the Soviet Union on November 1. The aim of the launching of the satellite is to practice methods of comprehensive study of the world ocean and the earth surface as well as systems of automatic collection of scientific information from sea- and ground-based experimental stations.
- ● Artificial earth satellite "Cosmos-1144" was launched in the Soviet Union on November 2.
- ● A salt factory is under construction in Pag, Yugoslavia. When completed, the factory will produce salt by new technical processes, not affected by weather conditions.
- ● A party and government delegation of the German Democratic Republic paid a goodwill visit to Bulgaria.
- ● The Permanent Secretariat of the Afr -Asian People's Solidarity Organization in its recent statement demanded an immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the South African troops from Namibia.
- ● Josip Broz Tito, President of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, paid an official and friendly visit to Romania between November 2 and 4 at the invitation of Nicolae Ceausescu, President of the Romanian Socialist Republic.
- ● Khomeini, the Islamic leader of Iran, in his recent speech denounced the policies of the United States and other Western countries toward Iran.

(KCNA)

Children in DPRK

"Girl Playing the Haegum"

In the DPRK, every child is a good player of one or two musical instruments. Children receive extra-curricular lessons in music at the Children and Students' Palace. This girl is playing the *Haegum* (a traditional instrument).

Brief Korean History (35)

Popular Struggles at End of 19th Century

After the Kabo Peasant War in 1894, a new crisis loomed to jeopardize the security of Korea. The country was between Scylla and Charybdis.

Those days, on the world scene, capitalism was growing into imperialism, its final stage. Imperialist powers were engaged in a global struggle to redivide their colonies. Suppression and exploitation intensified as never before. Korea was subjected to such renewed invasion attempts. One threat came from Japan, which emerged victorious from the Sino-Japanese War. The situation didn't favor the Japanese, however. In April 1894, the so-called triple intervention from Russia, Germany and France forced Japan to return the just-acquired Liaotung Peninsula to China. Making most of the vulnerable situation of Japan, the Russians began to increase their interests in Korea. Then, the feudal rulers of the Li dynasty hoped to maintain their reactionary rule with the backing of Russia. In a counter-move, Japan had Queen Min killed in October 1875. The incident provoked a prompt national rage of the Korean people.

In February 1896, the pro-Russian faction took the King to the Russian consulate with the help of Russian forces and Russia won many concessions. Similar concessions were granted to America, England, France and Germany.

Factional strife got more fierce among pro-Russian, pro-Japanese and pro-Chinese factions, with the country's national interests being put out for action.

Under these circumstances, more taxes were screwed out of the already harshly-exploited peasants. By the end of the 19th century, class and social contradictions reached an explosion point again.

In September 1895, the first anti-Japanese volunteers' army was organized in South Pyongan Province, kicking off a rebellion. Overwhelming Sanwon county, the volunteers advanced south into Hwanghae Province.

The rebellion spread to various other areas, causing the feudal government and Japanese to mobilize their troops. The volunteers valiantly resisted to the last man the combined enemy forces, and wicked local officials were executed.

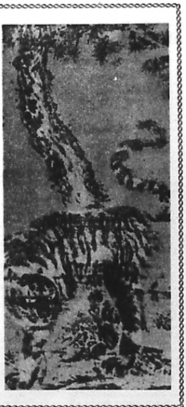
Volunteers' army, on its own accord, dissolved during a summer-autumn period of 1896, believed that the country was freed from the Japanese invasion.

From the beginning of 1900, the Hwalbin party with peasants as its mainstay increased its ranks in Chungchong Province. Its 13-point action platform demanded a fair land division and opposed the presence of the foreign aggressors, including their capital investment.

Patriotic intelligentsia tried to restore sovereignty, strengthening national independence and remove feudal vices. Their political activities became full-scale when the Independence Association was formed in July 1896. In October, 1898, the Independence Association held a mass meeting called *"Manminkongdong-hoe"*. The meeting adopted an 6-article resolution denouncing the then feudal rulers for selling national interests, demanding a political reform, respect for civil rights and a constitutional rule. Follow-up mass meetings were banned with leaders arrested. The Independence Association was outlawed.

(To be continued)

Korean Paintings



"Fierce Tiger"
by
Ko Un (1495-?)

News Dispatch from Pyongyang

Nov. 5

- A delegation of the Soviet-Korean Friendship Society headed by Alexandr Grigoryevich Dmitrin, Vice-Minister of Forestry and Wood-Processing Industry, arrived in Pyongyang by air.
- A cultural delegation of Hungary headed by Sandor Boros, Vice-Minister of Culture of the Hungarian People's Republic, arrived in Pyongyang by air.
- A delegation of Soviet moviemen headed by Dmitri Konstantinovich Zotov arrived in Pyongyang by air.
- The Pyongyang Acrobatic Troupe headed by Choe Yun Son arrived in Kuala Lumpur, the capital of Malaysia.

Nov. 6

- Chon Jin Sik, director of the Korean Industrial Company Ltd. under the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryun), and his party arrived in Pyongyang by plane.

Nov. 12

- A delegation of the Journalists Union of the German Democratic Republic headed by Hans-Dieter Kruger, editor of "Freiheit," organ of the Halle District Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, a delegation of the Federation of the Socialist Unions of Polish Youth headed by Slawomir Jakubowski, Secretary of the National Council of the Federation of the Socialist Unions of Polish Youth, and the Soviet Locomotive Gymnastic Team arrived in Pyongyang by plane.

Nov. 13

- Bangladesh Children's Academy arrived in Pyongyang by plane.

It was met at the airport by personages concerned and bouquets were presented to its members.

(KCNA)

Visit to Scenic Spots in Korea (9)

S. Gate of Mt. Taesong

Mt. Taesong which soars high above the banks of the Taedong-gang River flowing through eastern Pyongyang, is famous for the many historical sites and old relics of the Koguryo period it has. Among those relics, the Taesongsan Wall is the largest. The wall covering a distance of about 7.2 kilometers, was built between the late 3rd century and the early 4th century.

The South Gate is one of the gates of the Taesongsan Wall.

Climbing up a narrow road from the entrance of the Taesongsan Pleasure Ground, one can find the South Gate on a low peak. The gate was built around 427 when Koguryo moved its capital to Pyongyang. It is the biggest of the Taesongsan Wall gates.

Around the gate are found old remains of the Koguryo period such as broken tiles, gol . and copper images of the Buddha, stone boxes and a site of a warehouse.

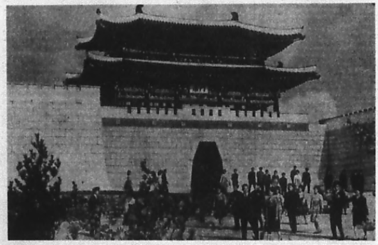
The South Gate crumbled and had been neglected for a long period, and only its site was known.

It was rebuilt in the era of the WPK at the suggestion of President Kim Il Sung. The gate was built just like the origina gate: the basewall is 10.6 meters high, the upper stories are 8.5 meters high, the roof is made in the Ujingak style (a four-slope roof).

People enjoy beautiful views of surroundings from the gate. Around the gate there are several hills including Somun Hill and Chujak Hill. The Taesongsan Pleasure Ground can also be seen from there. All hills and peaks are covered with trees and flower plants throughout the four seasons and many kinds of birds sing in the forests.

The South Gate of the Taesongsan Wall, together with the pleasure ground and other resorts around it, attracts many people.

(To be continued)



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